GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2231
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2008
KOPILI HYDEL POWER PROJECT
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 275 MW Kopili Hydel Power Project at Umrangso in NC-Hills has been subject to continuous threat and frequent attacks by militants;

(b) if so, whether the power generation capacity of the plant has been adversely affected during the last two years and the current year; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government for optimum operation and power generation in the plant?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE)

(a) : The Kopili Hydro Electric Project located in North Cachar Hills District of Assam issurrounded by dense forest from all sides and comprises three power stations of capacities4x50 MW (Kopili-I), 2x25 MW (Khandong) and 1x25 MW (Kopili-II).The three power stations andthe various installations are located at a distance of 15-25 km from the Project Headquarterat Umrongso. The project is sensitive from the security point of view as various militantgroups are operating in the area. As informed by the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation(NEEPCO), the Project management has been receiving continuous demands and threats from various militant groups.

(b) : After a militant attack on the shift duty personnel of NEEPCO on 11.02.2008,the generationfrom the power station had been temporarily affected. The 200 MW Kopili-I Power station had tobe put under shutdown from 12.02.2008 to 21.02.2008, while the 50 MW Khandong Power Station wasshut down from 12.02.2008 to 15.02.2008 and the 25 MW Kopili Stage II from 12.02.2008 to16.02.2008 consequent to the militant attack on 11.02.2008. During this period there wasgeneration loss to the tune of 20 Million Units from these power stations.

The generation from these Power Stations was restored after security cover of Assam Police wasprovided by the Government of Assam to the employees and to the installation. The units aresince in operation as per the normal schedule given by the NorthEast Regional Load Dispatch Centre (NERLDC).

(c) : The matter regarding repeated threats by the militant groups to NEEPCO employees has beentaken up with the Government of Assam. It has been informed that one platoon of Assam Policehas been provided by the State Government initially at the Kopili Power station for escortingthe shift duty personnel of the Power Plant. Thereafter, the security setup has been furtherstrengthened subsequently by posting another two platoons of the Assam Police Battalion atKhandong & Umrongso. In addition, one company of the BSF and one company of Assam Rifles arealso based at Umrongso to provide security cover to the employees of NEEPCO and to the installations.